

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 10/8/08, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room
Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Paul Conroy, Sue Doctrow, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener
Non-members Present: none.

1. Administration.
Meeting minutes of 9/10/08 approved unanimously.
Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
2. Thorndike Field Parking. Howard presented plans under consideration for reconfiguration of parking. Option C seems to be the preferred option (67 spaces with semi-circle turnaround at the easterly end). Conservation Commission prefers Option B (74 parking spaces) because it saves an existing pine tree. TAC will make recommendations for transportation changes off site and to entrance. Recreation Commissioner will come to the 11/12 TAC meeting to discuss.
3. Spring/Newport Streets. Spring Street is a partial private way, with one stop sign at the intersection of Newport St. Jeff recommended putting in another stop sign opposite the existing one. Voted unanimously. Jeff will write a short report for Selectmen.
4. Town Day Debrief. Scott—next year let's get more info on T passes for seniors and students. Comments re better signage at Mystic and Mass. Ave. Library Way crosswalk, look at ways to improve.
5. Capital Request Process. TAC submitted a capital request for \$500,000 each year over 5 years for phase 2 improvements around schools. Source of estimate: \$375,000 to \$400,000 per school, 7 schools. We may also be able to get some funding from Safe Routes to Schools.
6. Snow and Ice at corners around schools. Mike will prepare a map to locate problem areas where snow and ice impede safe routes to schools. DPW will try to keep these areas clear. School working groups to submit to Mike by end of October.
7. Possible Warrant Articles. 1. Parking study for commercial areas, how to better use what we have, look at possibility of meters. Ed will prepare a rough draft for next meeting. 2. Getting better, more updated crash data.
8. Winter Street. Howard reported on fading crosswalks and low hanging branches that impede visibility, especially near Crosby School. The area could be made into a school zone if Dearborn includes a middle school. Howard will make a recommendation next month.
9. Guidelines for Center Lines. Recent complaints received about painting of double center lines where there were none before, for example Gray Street. Perceived by some to speed up traffic. They are recommended for roads with volume of 4000+ cars per day, large pedestrian generators such as schools, and roads where sight lines are difficult.
10. Mass. Ave. Corridor. Scott reported that the first meeting, which was mostly informational, had attendance of about 60 people. Next meeting will be Oct. 23 and will include maps to be marked up by participants with ideas and issues. Following that meeting, the engineers will begin to design, followed by a public meeting in January when a plan will be presented for public reaction.
11. Schools progress.
 - a. Bishop School. Recommendations approved by Selectmen.

- b. Stratton School. Some of the signs need adjusting. Paul and Principal Brown would like to add a traffic supervisor.
 - c. Thompson School. No progress.
 - d. Peirce School. Traffic study for Park Ave. Extension completed.
 - e. Dallin School. Drainage problems for an abutter may help getting agreement for George Street sidewalk.
- 12. Alewife Study. Laura reported on a recent meeting with MAPC, conducting a study of bike and pedestrian access to Alewife Station. Comments from TAC were: 1. improve public access to bikeway from Thorndike St. and Brooks Ave., 2. No handi-capped access. Scott will get Laura more comments. Laura will invite MAPC to future TAC meeting.
- 13. Westminster Traffic Calming. Meeting was held at the site. Sue, Jeff, Paul and Elisabeth all favor median as a better solution compared to a neckdown on the western part of the street. One abutter remains opposed.
- 14. Town News.
 - a. Laura (Planning) reported that proposal for CVS at 821-837 Mass. Ave. (former Hodgdon Noyes car dealership) will go before the ARB on October 20, 2008. Laura will get Traffic Study to Jeff and Scott.
 - b. Mike (DPW) reported a delay in constructing handi-capped ramps because of CDBG mandated federal wage rates. He also reported that Summer Street is almost complete, and that DPW is currently interviewing for Junior Engineer and GIS staff.
 - c. Paul (Police) reported that he is looking into giving traffic supervisors the authority to give out parking tickets.
- 15. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 10/8/08; Memos (2) from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr, dated September 11, 2008; "Phase 1a Pedestrian Safety Improvement at Bishop School", and September 25, 2008, "Request for Crosswalk @ Lahey Clinic, Broadway"; "Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups", dated 10/8/08; Project Status, 8/10/08; Draft Actions from 9/10 TAC Meeting; "Comments received at Town Day 2008", Capital Budget Request from TAC; "Capital Improvements for Safety at Elementary Schools", "Attachment A: Approved Plan for School Transportation Safety". Minutes of 9/10/08